



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Crabtree, et al.

Application No.: 10/677,900

Filed: 10/2/2003

Title: Ranger/Hybrid Automatic Self-Metering Nozzle, with
Ratio-Selectable & Flow Meter Features

Attorney Docket No.: 50049

Art Unit:
3752

Examiner:
Nguyen, Dinh

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment
Associated with RCE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of April 15, 2008, made final, please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as per the attached Claim Amendment Sheet

REMARKS

The Action mailed 4/15/08, made final, indicates that there is one issue remaining in regard to the allowability of the claims.

In the Examiner's response to Argument section, the Examiner explains that the §103 rejection of claims 1-14 is repeated, traversing the applicant's arguments, because the "applicant's arguments" were found "narrower than the claims limitations." The applicant argued as if the additive passageway and the liquid conduit were "within" the nozzle. The Examiner found the claim terms themselves, given their broadest reasonable interpretation, to cover merely being associated with the nozzle ("belonging to") but not "within" the nozzle.

To resolve the issue between the parties, without agreeing with the Examiner's interpretation of claim of scope, applicant amends all independent claims, claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12, to recite that the "additive passageway" is "within" the nozzle and the "fire fighting liquid conduit" is "within" the nozzle. Lindsay does not teach or suggest an additive passageway within the nozzle and a liquid conduit within the nozzle where the conduit has a discharge orifice that varies in size with supply pressure (and the additive passageway within the nozzle having structural elements defining a variable opening that are